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FRANKLIN
WHITWORTH

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COLORADO SPRINGS CABLEVISION CANCELS SACRED LIES/CIVIL TRUTHS WITHOUT EXPLANATION

Ground Zero announced in its August newsletter that the Videotape, SACRED LIES CIVIL TRUTHS would be shown on Colorado Springs Cablevision's Channel 9 two times in the month of August, the fifth and the 17th. The day before the showing, Colorado Springs Cablevision representative, David Brickhouse, called Ground Zero representative Peter Joseph and told him our check was being returned and the show was being canceled. Mr. Brickhouse absolutely refused to give any explanation other than that this was their right. They could "refuse to air" any program they wanted. Mr. Brickhouse repeated this same line to Franklin Whitworth a short time later. In fact, the check and video were returned the next day.

The arrangements for this event were made many weeks before the day of airing with Alan Jahmke, another Colorado Springs Cablevision Representative. The nature of the Video Tape was discussed in detail and Franklin Whitworth advised Mr. Jahmke that they would want to preview it because they would need to put a warning that material might not be suitable for children and they would certainly want to clearly designate the program as a paid program, the viewpoint of which they did not necessarily endorse. Franklin pointed out that Fox 21 had run a program of the fundamentalist right they thought was a religious program and it ended up being propaganda. Fox got into trouble because they had not clearly marked this as paid programming and it appeared to be a documentary. Mr. Jahmke stated unequivocally to me then, and several times to Peter Joseph and I later, that Colorado Springs Cablevision did not need to preview the tape.

The booking was confirmed as being absolute to Franklin Whitworth and Peter Joseph separately several weeks before the showing when said confirmation was sought prior to issuance of advertising.

SACRED LIES is not in anyway pornographic or obscene. It is an intense exploration of the issues and, particularly, of the lies, myths and stereotypes promulgated by Fundamentalists against Gays and Lesbians. There was no justification in rejecting this tape. It has been shown on public television and other stations across America, including in Denver.

Ground Zero views with alarm and is incensed with this action by Colorado Springs Cablevision. We feel that it is worsened by their absolute refusal to state a justification, leaving them open in the future to give any reason they wish. Legal advice and litigation avenues are being explored with the American Civil liberties Union. All appropriate action will be taken to correct this travesty.

At the least, we are requesting that letters be written to :

JEFF TARBERT, GENERAL MANAGER
COLORADO SPRINGS CABLEVISION
213 N. UNION
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

Also send copies of your protest to:

COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET NW
WASHINGTON D. C. 20554

AND

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS
CHAIRMAN JEFF BEAUPREZ
CABLETELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
c/oHEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
P. O. BOX 2197
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80901

You may be as angry as we and decide on further action. Ground Zero is advised that there is an alternative to Cablevision in Colorado Springs, American Telecasting of Colorado Springs offers 28 basic channels and three premiums and the rates seem most reasonable. You could give them a call at 632-0900.

WHATEVER YOUR ACTION, MAKE SURE IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A LETTER TO CABLEVISION'S GENERAL MANAGER AND GROUND ZERO WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU SO THAT WE CAN KEEP A RECORD OF ANY ACTION YOU DECIDE TO TAKE.

It is important that we, as a people under attack, much maligned by those who oppose us, be able to identify who we really are and that we be able to answer the lies and hate rhetoric. This action denies us that opportunity. A recent decision by the Gazette Telegraph compounds that. When the Gazette published a story on Katharine Lee Bates that included reference to the view of some that she was a lesbian, despite the fact that the Gazette went out of its way to debunk these views, senior management of the Gazette received so much flack from their peers that they made a very unfortunate decision. They directed their editorial and news staff that only hard news about gay issues would be printed in the future. All Gay Community Human or Business interest stories were to be forbidden. In fact, three stories the Ground Zero office was cooperating in the preparation of have been canceled.

Add to this the fact that Channel 13 only reluctantly carries anything about Gays, that channel 5 often presents negative views on the GLBT Community and that there is a massive presence of RELIGIOUS MEDIA in the area and coming through on national programs, and the GLBT community is greatly endangered. We are being segregated and eliminated from viable participation in society without the means to respond and resist. Lies, Myths and Stereotypes are being used to vilify and dehumanize us and we are denied effective access to the media and to public access to refute these and to represent who we really are. A WALL AS EFFECTIVE AS THOSE BUILT AROUND GHETTOS IN NAZI EUROPE IS BEING BUILT AROUND US. Do not fool yourself into complacency; do not believe that Amendment 2 is the militant Fundamentalist's only tool. Our right to exist and be a viable part of society is under attack from every direction. They are insidious and they are driven to make the GLBT community disappear.